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P 102251Z DEC 73 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MARR/AS/US

SUBJECT: RADM BOYES/NORTH WEST CAPE

FOR AMBASSADOR GREEN FROM SNEIDER

- 1. (RADM) JON BOYES CAME IN FRIDAY AFTERNOON TO TALK ABOUT HIS TRIP TO AUSTRALIA, AND IN PARTICULAR, ABOUT HOW WE WILL APPROACH THE NORTH WEST CAPE NEGOTIATIONS. DENNIS DOOLIN AND TOM BIGLEY WERE WITH HIM, AND WE HAD STODDART AND DORRANCE AND PEOPLE FROM L AND PM.
- 2. BOYES WILL SPEND A GOOD BIT OF HIS TIME WITH SWAN, AND THERE ARE SOME USEFUL THINGS HE MAY BE ABLE TO WORK OUT WITH THE AUSTRALIANS AT THE TECHNICAL, TELECOMMUNICATORS LEVEL, SUCH AS ALTERNATIVES FOR JOINT SHARING OF TECHNICAL CONTROL SPACES, A MORE PRECISE UNDERSTANDING ABOUT BILLETS FOR AUSTRALIAN PERSONNEL- ETC. SWAN MAY NOT HAVE MUCH LEEWAY BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS, BUT HE AND BOYES MIGHT BE OF HELP BY MINIMIZING THE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND ISSUES SO PRITCHETT AND I CAN CONCENTRATE ON THE POLITICAL ISSUES.

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- 3. I TOLD HIM I HAD NO PARTICULAR OBJECTION TO HIS TECHNICAL LEVEL DISCUSSIONS, BUT WANTED TO MAKE SURE HE STAYED AWAY FROM THE POLITICAL ISSUES, E.G., CONSULTATIONS AND DUTY-FREE PRIVILEGES.
- 4. IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE PROBABLY PRETTY CLOSE TO THE AUSTRALIANS ON BILLET-SHARING, AND SOMETHING CAN PROBABLY BE FAIRLY EASILY WORKED OUT FOR PRIVATE NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS HANDLING WITHIN A GENERAL "TECHNICAL CONTROL SPACE., THE BASIC AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR AUSTRALIA PAYING THE ASSOCIATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS, BUT I UNDERSTAND THAT PHYSICAL RECONSTRUCTION WOULDN'T COST THAT MUCH ANYWAY. THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY PROBLEM OVER THE DEPUTY COMMANDER, I.E., THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT AUSTRALIA WANTS "SUCCESSION" RIGHTS. BATTLE/BARWICK IS NOT A REAL PROBLEM; WE COULD AMEND, DECLARE INOPERATIVE, OR SIMPLY OVERTAKE IT AS THE AUSTRALIANS WISH, AS LONG AS THEY CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT WE CAN NEITHER AGREE TO GIVE THEM ACCESS TO OUR PRIVILEGED NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, NOR GIVE THEM ANY SENSE OF "SHARING THE NUCLEAR TRIGGER."
- 5. IN SUM, THE REAL ISSUES ARE "CONSULTATIONS" AND THE PRIVILEGES" QUESTION. IN WORKING WITH PRITCHETT THIS WEEK, WE WILL AIM TOWARD SOME SORT OF AD REFERENDUM FORMULA THAT WILL ALLOW US TO AGREE ON PRINCIPLES, LEAVING IT TO THE NAVIES TO WORK OUT DETAILS ON PRIVILEGES. ON CONSULTATIONS, WE PLAN TO PRESS FOR REMAINING WITH THE ANZUS FRAMEWORK. RUSH

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